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The PAMPA NEWS



TODAY IN SPORTS

Friday, Feb. 24, 2012 www.thepampanews.com Volume 107 • No. 265

75¢ Will social issues bite GOP? Recent focus could haunt party in the fall | p4
 Hasse more than just a voice Friends, Pampa residents remember a legend | p6

Pampa Women's Expo at M.K. Brown on Saturday

MOLLIE BRYANT
 mbryant@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Women's Expo will be held on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the M.K. Brown Civic Center, featuring about 30 booths from small businesses in Pampa and the region. The expo will be free to attend, and will include about 30 door prizes. "Some girls with home businesses

got together a couple years ago, and wanted to do an expo," said Chalenia Freeman, owner of Cha Cha's Bling and More and director of the event. "This year, we've opened it up to the Panhandle, and I've had an overwhelming response." This year's expo will include a diverse range of products and businesses. "There will be everything from arts

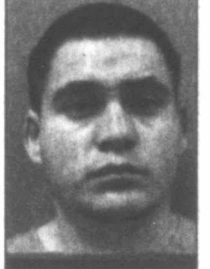
and crafts to Avon, Scentsy and things like that," said Freeman. "We'll have a lady who makes furniture, and we'll also have a lady who makes food. She's raising money for a trip to Africa. There will also be a group of authors doing book signings." Freeman said that she loves the opportunity to get out in the community and meet people, but the expo

also gives the people a chance to get to know small businesses in the area. "I just think we need to support small businesses, as well as larger businesses," she said. "Sometimes it's harder to get out there if you have a small business. For some women, it might be their second income, but for some others, it might be their only income."

Palacios gets 20 years for drug felony

MOLLIE BRYANT
 mbryant@thepampanews.com

On Wednesday afternoon, a Gray County jury of four women and eight men found Jose Angel Palacios, 24, of Perryton, guilty of possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver, a first degree felony.



Palacios

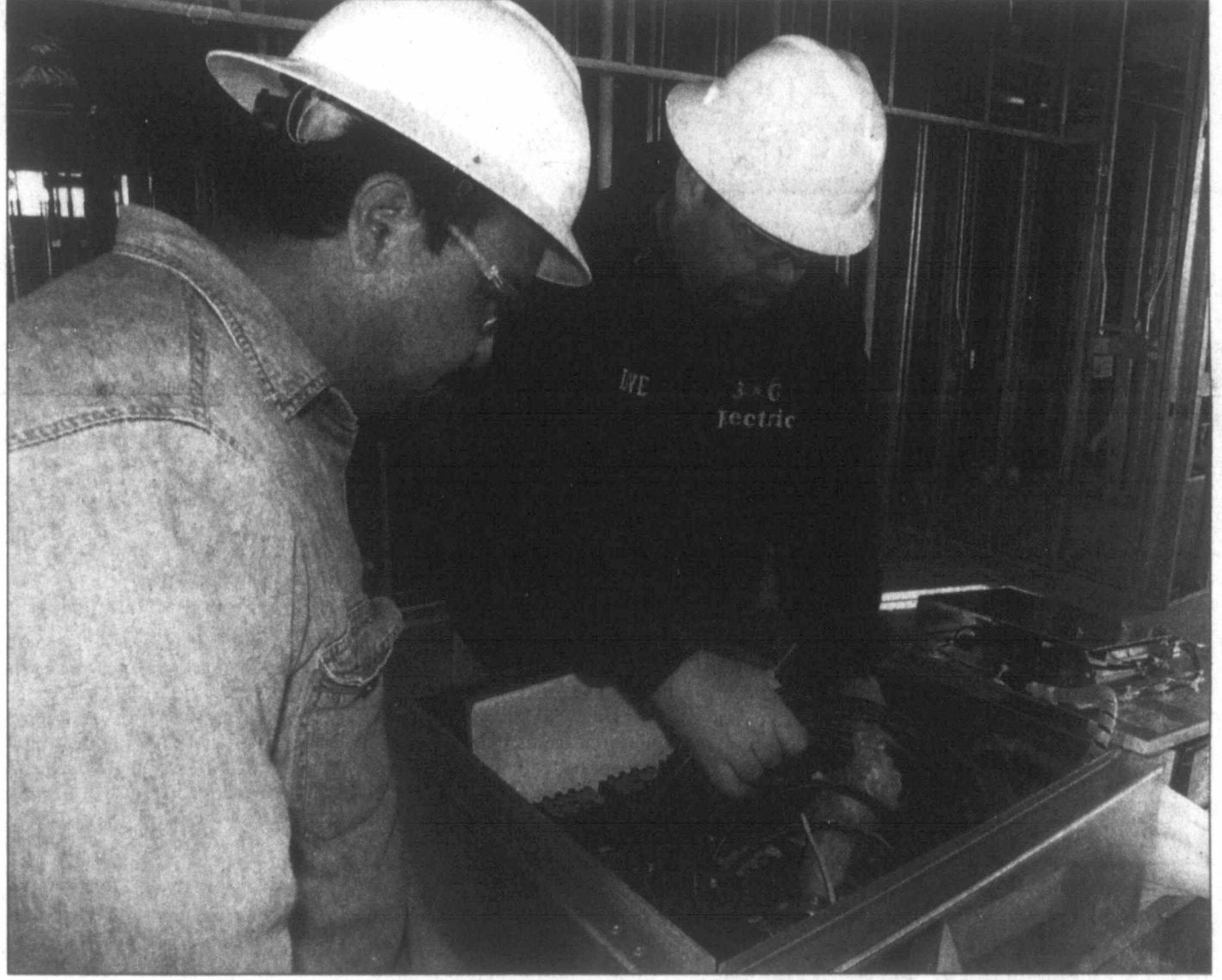
In April of 2006, Palacios was charged with the crime, which involved intent to deal about 26 grams of cocaine.

Palacios has been sentenced to 20 years and faces a \$2,500 fine. Prior to sentencing, he had no previous felony arrests on his record.

Despite Palacios' relatively clean rap sheet, area law officials said that his conviction and sentence are indicative of Pampa and Gray County's views on drug-related offenders.

"I think basically the community was saying that even if you don't have a criminal history, if you plan on dealing drugs, the community won't tolerate it," said Jason Ferguson, Assistant District Attorney of the 31st District, who tried the case.

PAMPA PROJECTS, PAMPA PEOPLE



staff photo by **Arnie Aurellano**

Joe Jimenez and **Dave Davis** of B&G Electric in Pampa work on the interior wiring at the ongoing McDonald's rebuild project at the corner of Somerville and Hobart.

NO HITS ALLOWED



staff photo by **Andrew Glover**

Junior James Thompson winds up to throw a pitch against Dalhart in the season opener Thursday. Thompson threw a no-hitter in an 18-0 victory at Harvester Field.

Pampa woman attacked in her home Thursday

ARNIE AURELLANO
 editor@thepampanews.com

Pampa police officers responded to a call involving an attempted assault yesterday morning to find a victim and a missing attacker.

According to Stormy McCullar, Pampa PD public information officer, the police were notified at approximately 9:30 a.m. on Thursday to a residence on the east side of the city. They found a female occupant, who reportedly encountered an unknown male subject in her home. The suspect was allegedly armed with a knife. She was threatened and assaulted

by the suspect, but was able to fend off the attacker, who then fled the scene. The police are currently withholding her identity for her safety.

"The extent of the victim's injuries is not known at this time, but we don't believe that the injuries are life threatening," said McCullar. McCullar said that this incident appears to be unrelated to the spate of burglaries that occurred in Pampa in January.

"It's totally different," McCullar said. "Before, with those they were just wanting property. They were not wanting to threaten people's

ASSAULT cont. on page 5

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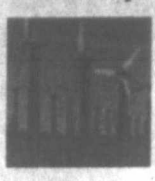
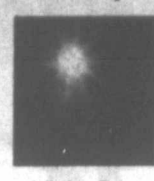
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PAMPA FORECAST

Today	Saturday	Sunday
		
High 52 Low 30	High 58 Low 32	High 54 Low 31

Today: Sunny, with a high near 52. Wind chill values between 16 and 26 early. Northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Tonight: Clear, with a low around 30. Wind chill values between 20 and 25. North northwest wind 5 to 15 mph becoming south. Winds could gust as high as 25 mph.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 58. Windy, with a south southwest wind between 20 and 30 mph, with gusts as high as 40 mph.

Saturday Night: Clear, with a low around 32. Windy, with a south wind 25 to 30 mph becoming west 15 to 20 mph. Winds could gust as high as 40 mph.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 54. North northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Sunday Night: Clear, with a low around 31. South southeast wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

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LAST MINUTE ADS

The Pampa News is not responsible for the content of paid advertisement

A&T YARD Service, 1305 S. Hobart, 669-9000. Onion Sets are in! Now is the time to plant trees. We have a wide variety of shade and fruit trees.

CHECK OUT the \$19 Ad Special in the Pampa News Top Of Texas Classifieds! For autos, motorcycles, motorhomes, tractors, riding lawnmowers, etc. if you can drive it, you can run it for \$19 til it sells! Add \$10 and you can run a picture with it! Stop by today! (paid in advance only). Questions, call Beverly 669-2525

COME SUPPORT small businesses from the Texas Panhandle, Pampa Women's Expo, Feb. 25 from 10 to 5, MK Brown auditorium. Free admission, hourly door prize drawings.

INDYER'S Advertisement for All You Can Eat Catfish that ran in the Pampa News on Thurs. Feb. 23rd, there was a type o- the price read \$9.99, the Correct Price is \$11.99. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

KNIGHTS OF Columbus Sausage Dinner, Sunday Feb. 26, 11am-2pm. 318 N. Cuyler.

LADIES WINTER Blouses 1/2 Price! Lots of items on sale. Tralee Resale Shop, 110 N. Cuyler.

VISIT M&S Specialty Foods booth at the Women's Business Expo this Sat. 10-5 @ MK Brown.

Barbee counsel: Claim hard to believe

FORT WORTH (AP) — The court-appointed attorney for a Texas man sentenced to death six years ago for killing his pregnant ex-girlfriend and her 7-year-old son testified Thursday that he was skeptical of the man's claim of innocence but never pressured him to plead guilty.

Fort Worth criminal defense attorney William H. "Bill" Ray said in state court that he told Stephen Barbee his statements to police would make his innocence difficult to prove, but he was free to plead any way he liked.

"Mr. Barbee told me unequivocally, in no uncertain terms, that he was innocent," Ray testified. "The evidence I found in the case tended to say that was not a correct statement."

Ray was the chief witness on the last day of a hearing in which Barbee's appellate attorneys sought testimony to support their claim that the condemned man should get a new trial. They claim Ray performed ineffectively because of a "secret deal" with the trial judge, Bob Gill, to make cases move quickly.

Gill retired from the bench in 2007 and is now an assistant district attorney in Tarrant County.

State District Judge Louis Sturns, Gill's successor, is presiding over the hearing. He is expected to make a recommendation to the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals on whether the evidence warrants Barbee getting a new trial.

Barbee was convicted of suffocating bagel shop owner Lisa Underwood and her son, Jayden, in February 2006. A videotape in which Barbee confessed was ruled to be inadmissible, but a Fort Worth police detective was allowed to testify about the statement.

Barbee's appellate attorneys contend Ray tried to pressure Barbee into pleading guilty, failed to investigate or present a case of actual innocence and failed to provide the jury with mitigating evidence during the punishment phase.

They are trying to link Ray's alleged ineffectiveness to his longtime role in

getting appointed to probation revocation cases in Gill's court and the fact that Gill handled more of those cases than any other Fort Worth judge, in "large measure because he negotiated plea deals himself."

Ray testified that between 70 and 80 percent of his business comes from court appointments and between 25 and 75 percent of that came from Gill when he was on the bench. But Ray said nothing was unusual about the situation.

"I don't think we had an arrangement," he testified. "(Gill) gave me a lot of cases because I work hard."

Ray disclosed that he wrote out two memos of understanding with Barbee as to what the defense would entail, one of which the defendant refused to sign. He said he prepared the memos because he knew he couldn't present some testimony and because he didn't trust Barbee or his family.

"I thought we'd be sitting here (revisiting the case) someday," Ray testified.

Obituaries

Elveda "Beadie" Baird, 87

Elveda "Beadie" Baird, 87, died February 23, 2012, in Amarillo.

Services are pending with Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Baird was born December 12, 1924, in Van Alstyne. She married James Baird on September 10, 1943, at the Pampa Army Base. She was employed by Gray County Soil Conservation District for 10 years. Beadie was

a longtime member of First Baptist Church and Central Baptist Church. She was the recipient of the "7 Who Care" award. She enjoyed sewing, was very artistic, and enjoyed spending time in her garden. She was a very strong Christian and enjoyed teaching others about Jesus.

Survivors include her husband, James Baird of the home; a daughter, Loretta Robinson and husband Kelly of Wimberly; three grandchildren, Kelly Michelle Robinson of Wimberly, Stephen Baird Robinson of Austin and Sonja Yvette Hanna of Katy; two great-grandchildren, Victoria Jewel Robinson of Wimberly and Baden James Hanna of Katy; and numerous nieces and nephews. Beadie was preceded in death by her parents, William and Jewell Judkins; a daughter, Joretta Baird on June 1, 1981; and two sisters, Evelyn Epps on June 15, 2008, and Doris Smith on June 31, 2008.

Memorials may be made to The League House, 7000



Baird

Amarillo Blvd. West, Amarillo, TX 79106.

Sign the online register at www.carmichael-whitley.com.

Mickey Sue Johnson, 90

Mickey Sue Johnson, 90, died February 22, 2012, in Pampa.

Entombment services will be at 3 p.m. Saturday, February 25, 2012, at Memory Gardens Mausoleum with T. V. Cuellar, elder of Redeemer Pampa, officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Miss Johnson was born on February 8, 1922, in Cisco. As a young girl her family moved to Lefors where she attended and graduated school. She worked for Texaco as a secretary for 36 years. She was a member of Lefors United Methodist Church. She was a long time member of Desk & Derrick and she also volunteered for the Pampa Regional Medical Center Auxiliary for over 1500 hours.

Survivors include a sister, Betty Chura of Ft. Worth and a host of nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, Benjamin Cleve and Nuggie Johnson; a sister, Maxine Johnson; and two brothers, Bob Johnson and Maynard Johnson.

Sign the online register at www.carmichael-whitley.com.



Johnson

For the record

Police Department

The Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents for the 24 hour period ending Thursday, Feb. 23 at 7 a.m.

Pampa PD reported 27 traffic related incidents.

Animal Control agents reported 19 animal related incidents.

Pampa EMS responded to seven medical calls.

Wednesday, Feb. 22

Criminal trespassing was reported.

A suspicious person was reported at Elm and Barrett.

A theft was reported.

A burglary occurred at the 500 block of South Huff.

A theft occurred at the 100 block of North Cuyler.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 400 block of North Lowry.

Burglary of a motor vehicle occurred at the 2800 block of North Charles.

Criminal mischief occurred at the 1800 block of North Nelson.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 4000 block of North Bad Cattle Company.

A domestic disturbance occurred at the 700 block of North Frost.

A suspicious person was reported at the 900 block of West Rham.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 200 block of North Sumner.

A burglary occurred at the 500 block of North Nelson.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 1300 block of Terrace.

An offense against family and children was reported.

A suspicious vehicle was reported at Cuyler and Brown.

A domestic disturbance occurred at the 2200 block of North Hamilton.

Thursday, Feb. 23

Suspicious persons were reported at the intersection of Sloan and Jordan and the 500 block of Davis.

Sheriff's Office

The Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests for the 24 hour period ending Thursday, Feb. 23 at 7 a.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 22

Shane Edward Estes, 29, was arrested by deputies for a probation violation in connection with possession of marijuana.

Brandon Anthony Tiller, 21, was arrested by police for driving under the influence.

Jonnathon Michael Shade, 22, was arrested by police for insufficient bond in connection with theft of property.

Tracy Cates Short, 49, was arrested by deputies for possession of a controlled substance.

Jose Angel Palacios, 24, was arrested by deputies on a Texas Department of Criminal Justice sentence regarding delivery of a controlled substance.

The PAMPA NEWS

403 W. Atchison • Pampa, TX 79065
806-669-2525 • Fax: 806-669-2520

Randall Pribble

Publisher

rpribble@thepampanews.com

ReDonn Woods

Advertising Manager
rwoods@thepampanews.com

Bernie Frazier

Advertising Representative
bfrazier@thepampanews.com

Beverly Taylor

Classified Advertising
classified@thepampanews.com

Marijane Kent

Composing
composing@thepampanews.com

Carrie Hair

Accounting
bookkeeper@thepampanews.com

Sue Pribble

Subscription Manager
spribble@thepampanews.com

Arnie Aurellano

Editor
editor@thepampanews.com

Mollie Bryant

Reporter
mbryant@thepampanews.com

Andrew Glover

Reporter
aglover@thepampanews.com

Holley Bimson

Composing
composing2@thepampanews.com

Marcus Elkins

Press Supervisor
press@thepampanews.com

Chico Ramirez

Circulation Manager
Circulation2@thepampanews.com

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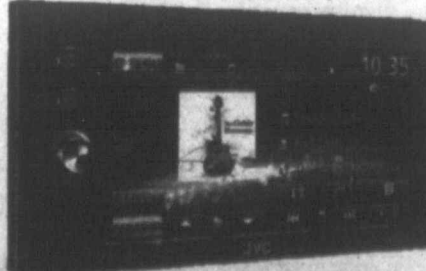
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Romney pounces on Santorum

MILFORD, Mich. (AP) — Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney is trying to upend Rick Santorum's image as a principled defender of conservative ideals.

Romney told Arizona voters Thursday that the former senator's congressional record proves he's just another give-and-take politician.

Romney's team believes that Santorum opened himself to the attacks with a somewhat anguished explanation of his reluctant vote for a Bush-era school program in Wednesday's televised debate.

Santorum said that sometimes a loyal party member must, as he put it, "take one for the team."

In a speech Thursday in Michigan, Romney says his team is "the American people."

Both men planned to campaign Friday in Michigan. The Arizona and Michigan primaries are Tuesday.

DA seeks death penalty review

DALLAS (AP) — The top prosecutor in Dallas County says he wants Texas to have a "conversation" about the death penalty after his office has seen more than 20 wrongfully convicted people go free.

Craig Watkins tells The Associated Press that he questions whether Texas has executed an innocent man. Twelve people once on Texas' death row have gone free.

He also says his great-grandfather's execution for murder in 1932 is a family story he learned about just in recent years. He says the incident has made him more aware of whether suspects, particularly African-Americans, are being treated fairly.

Twenty-two people in Dallas County have been exonerated through DNA evidence since 2001, most during Watkins' tenure. That's the most of any county in Texas and more than all but two states.

Texas environment head retiring

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The executive director of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality is retiring after 25 years with the agency.

The agency's commissioners say in a statement Thursday that Mark Vickery's retirement will be effective in May. He will remain at TCEQ to oversee the transition.

Vickery began his career as an enforcement coordinator when the agency was still called the Texas Water Commission. He has worked in nearly every area, including industrial and hazardous waste, permitting and registration and field operations.

Vickery took over as executive director in 2008.

Vickery says he will miss working at TCEQ and that Texas "is a better place because of the tremendous work being done each and every day to vigorously protect the environment using sound science and common sense."

Exceptional drought declining

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) — Recent rains across parts of Texas have led to less than 15 percent of the state being in the worst category of drought for the first time since last spring.

The U.S. Drought Monitor map released Thursday shows 13.93 percent of Texas in exceptional drought, down from 20.41 percent last week.

No drought exists in about 6 percent of the state, the first time since last March it's been above 5 percent.

San Angelo has had its wettest start to a year on record — 5.98 inches. College Station has seen 12.98 inches, its second-wettest start.

Houston's George Bush Intercontinental Airport has received 15.33 inches since Dec. 1, and Houston Hobby Airport's is at 12.20 inches in that period.

Thousands of feral hogs killed

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) — A competition aimed at curbing the feral hog problem in Texas has resulted in the demise of 12,632 of the animals that damage or destroy hundreds of millions of dollars in crops and rangeland every year.

The Texas Department of Agriculture said Thursday that Hardeman County on the Oklahoma border bagged the most animals in the Hog Out Challenge to win \$20,000 to help with further abatement.

Four other counties will share the remainder of the \$60,000 in awards.

Officials agreed to release the information to The Associated Press first.

This year's contest ran two months longer than the inaugural one-month program and resulted in the elimination of 8,773 more hogs. There were 3,859 kills in 2010.

An estimated 2.6 million hogs cause \$550 million in damage annually.

Beautician jailed for injections

TYLER, Texas (AP) — An East Texas beautician is jailed after she was accused of administering breast augmentation injections.

Tyler police say one customer ended up hospitalized in critical condition with chest pain after injections from Carmel Michelle Foster-Alexander at her Queen Divas Hair Salon and Spa.

Police spokesman Donald Martin says Foster was arrested about 1 p.m. Thursday after a tip led Harrison County sheriff's deputies to a rural house about 5 miles north of Marshall. She's booked into the Harrison County Jail in Marshall, awaiting return to Smith County. Bonds total \$200,000.

A police statement says Foster is charged with two counts of practicing medicine without a license, but Martin says other injection recipients have come forward and more charges are possible. Jail records list no attorney for Foster.

Accountant: Stanford's account audited

HOUSTON (AP) — There was nothing "extravagant" about millions that were paid to the outside auditor of jailed Texas tycoon R. Allen Stanford's Caribbean bank, an accountant told jurors Thursday at the financier's fraud trial.

Prosecutors allege the bank was at the center of a Ponzi scheme that took billions from investors. But Morris Hollander, a forensic accountant hired by Stanford's defense team, testified that his review of financial statements and other documents seemed to show the bank was being properly audited by the businessman's outside auditor, C.A.S. Hewlett, and the bank was adhering to international accounting rules.

Stanford is accused by prosecutors of orchestrating a 20-year scheme that bilked more than \$7 billion from investors through the sale of certificates of deposit from his bank on the Caribbean island nation of Antigua.

They also allege Stanford, whose financial empire was headquartered in Houston, lied to depositors by telling them their funds were being safely invested but instead spent it on his businesses and his lavish lifestyle.

Prosecutors allege Stanford bribed Hewlett, who was based in Antigua, with more than \$4.6 million from a secret Swiss bank account over a 10-year period, to help him hide the massive fraud. Defense attorneys say the money was for payment of auditing services.

"Are these amounts (the \$4.6 million) extravagant ... if you were auditing the bank?" Ali Fazel, one of Stanford's attorneys asked.

"In my view they are not extravagant," Hollander said.

Hollander spent much of his time going over the bank's reports and explaining financial terms to jurors, sometimes in painstaking detail.

This prompted federal prosecutor Gregg Costa to say during a jury break that the testimony was moving at a "glacial pace" and to suggest the defense team was delaying the trial — in its fifth week — so it could have more time to prepare for when Stanford takes the stand.

Fazel replied that "assumes Stanford will testify."

Defense attorneys said at the start of the trial the financier would testify. But it's unclear if that will still happen. Attorneys cannot comment about the case due to a gag order.

Since Stanford began his defense last week, witnesses have said the financier was not a hands-on boss and that his chief financial officer, James M. Davis, handled the day to day operations of his businesses. Stanford's attorneys have accused Davis, the prosecution's star witness, of being behind the alleged fraud. Defense witnesses have also testified that many of Stanford's business ventures were profitable and

depositors were informed there was risk with their investments.

Stanford is on trial for 14 counts, including mail and wire fraud, and could be sentenced to more than 20 years in prison if convicted. Once considered among the U.S.'s wealthiest people with an estimated net worth of more than \$2 billion, he has been jailed without bond since being indicted in 2009.

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Blankets of bluebonnets on Texas' forecast, say experts

DALLAS (AP) — Expect blankets of bluebonnets this spring.

Despite a historic drought that persists across most of Texas, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center said well-timed rains in the fall and winter should make for an impressive wildflower season in northern, central and eastern parts of the state.

"I know Texas has been in the news because of its drought but I think this spring we're going to be in the news for a good wildflower season," said Damon Waitt, senior director and botanist at the wildflower center.

But it's not good news everywhere — the Panhandle, West Texas and South Texas didn't get the beneficial autumn rains, which is when the wildflowers germinate.

Excitement has started to build in areas where buds already are peeking through the ground.

"We have a lot of plants showing in the fields,"

said Lu Hollander, spokeswoman for the Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau. "I think with some fairly consistent warm weather, we're going to see them pop out."

Hollander said that within the next 10 days, bureau employees will start driving the county — located between Austin and Houston — to map out where the best showings are.

Waitt said the wildflower season in Texas reaches its peak around mid-April, but that flowers will begin blossoming first in the southern parts of the state, probably after the first week of March. He said that by the third week of March, Central Texas should see the floral bounty, and by the end of the month, the northern part of the state will be awash in color.

"It's looking good out in the field. Bluebonnets the size of saucers are hugging the ground right now, getting ready to bolt and send up their flowers,"

depositors were informed there was risk with their investments.

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Bill Allison Auto Sales

Cinema 4

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Act of Valor (R)
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Sat 2:00 4:30 7:30 9:45
Sun 2:00 4:30 7:30
Mon/Thur 7:30

This Means War (PG-13)
Fri 7:00 9:45
Sat 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:45
Sun 2:00 4:30 7:00
Mon/Thur 7:00

Journey 2 in 3-D (PG)
Fri 7:00 9:00
Sat 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:00
Sun 2:00 4:30 7:00
Mon/Thur 7:00

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Fri 7:30 9:45
Sat 2:00 4:30 7:30 9:45
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Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Friday, Feb. 24, the 55th day of 2012. There are 311 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 24, 1942, the SS Struma, a charter ship attempting to carry Jewish refugees from Romania to Palestine during World War II, was torpedoed and sunk by a Soviet submarine after being towed and abandoned in the Black Sea by Turkish authorities; all but one of the 769 refugees on board perished.

On this date:

In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII issued a papal bull, or edict, outlining his calendar reforms. (The Gregorian Calendar is the calendar in general use today.)

In 1711, the opera "Rinaldo" by George Frideric Handel premiered in London.

In 1803, in its Marbury v. Madison decision, the Supreme Court established judicial review of the constitutionality of statutes.

In 1821, Mexican rebels proclaimed the "Plan de Iguala," their declaration of independence from Spain.

In 1868, the House of Representatives impeached President Andrew Johnson following his attempted dismissal of Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton; Johnson was later acquitted by the Senate.

In 1912, the American Jewish women's organization Hadassah was founded in New York City.

In 1918, Estonia issued its Declaration of Independence.

In 1920, the German Workers Party, which later became the Nazi Party, met in Munich to adopt its platform.

In 1946, Argentinian men went to the polls to elect Juan D. Peron their president.

In 1961, the Federal Communications Commission authorized the nation's first full-scale trial of pay television in Hartford, Conn.

In 1981, Buckingham Palace announced the engagement of Britain's Prince Charles to Lady Diana Spencer.

In 1992, Nirvana lead singer Kurt Cobain married Hole lead vocalist Courtney Love in Hawaii.

Ten years ago: The Salt Lake City Olympics came to a close, the same day Canada won its first hockey gold in 50 years (the U.S. won silver) and three cross-country skiers were thrown out of the games for using a performance-enhancing drug.

Five years ago: A suicide truck bomber struck worshippers leaving a Sunni mosque in Habbaniyah, 50 miles west of Baghdad, killing at least 52 people. The Virginia General Assembly passed a resolution expressing "profound regret" for the state's role in slavery. Denver Broncos running back Damien Nash, 24, collapsed and died after a charity basketball game he'd hosted in suburban St. Louis.

One year ago: Discovery, the world's most traveled spaceship, thundered into orbit for the final time, heading toward the International Space Station on a journey marking the beginning of the end of the shuttle era.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Abe Vigoda is 91. Actor Steven Hill is 90. Actor-singer Dominic Chianese is 81. Movie composer Michel Legrand is 80. Sen. Joseph Lieberman, I-Conn., is 70. Actor Barry Bostwick is 67. Actor Edward James Olmos is 65. Singer-writer-producer Rupert Holmes is 65. Rock singer-musician George Thorogood is 62. Actress Debra Jo Rupp is 61. Actress Helen Shaver is 61. News anchor Paula Zahn is 56. Country singer Sammy Kershaw is 54. Actor Mark Moses is 54. Singer Michelle Shocked is 50. Movie director Todd Field is 48. Actor Billy Zane is 46. Actress Bonnie Somerville is 38. Rhythm-and-blues singer Brandon Brown (Mista) is 29. Rock musician Matt McGinley (Gym Class Heroes) is 29. Actor Wilson Bethel is 28.

Thought for Today: "It is my feeling that Time ripens all things; with Time all things are revealed; Time is the father of truth." - Francois Rabelais, 16th century French writer and physician



Cultural, social and religious rules still work

Oh, have we got problems as a country and as a people — not all of them connected with Iranian nuclear ambitions, the eurozone crisis and Mitt Romney's inner feelings about family dogs on the family station wagon roof.

News that the U.S. illegitimacy rate is 51 percent for births to women aged 20 to 30 stuns less by means of the trend's sheer novelty than through the implications — none desirable — for a whole lot of things.

When you're old enough to remember Bel-Air Chevys and the Lawrence Welk Show, you come to expect ridicule for the offense — a misdemeanor at least — of preferring the old days to the new. Go on, snicker. I can't think of anything else funny concerning a phenomenon sure to produce heartache and social disruption. There is nothing good about illegitimacy. It happens, always has. Some of history's luminaries have been, as we used to say, before newfound sensitivities intervened, bastards. Alexander Hamilton may be, in some sense, the most valuable bastard in U.S. history.

That the name used to be a common reproach shows how times have changed. In the 21st century, we pretty much affirm everybody's right to do as he or she wants — no advice, no lectures or finger-pointing, just do it! It shows. An above 50 percent bastardy rate for under-30s is more than a scandal; it's a social crime.

What do I mean, "crime"? So you want (I hear the reproaches already) to ride these upstanding bastards out of town on a rail, do you? We know your

kind — meaning, of course, *my* kind: cruel and merciless, someone who would burn witches for fun, if allowed.

Well, not really.

The point 21st century culture seems incapable of ingesting is that the old cultural, social and religious "rules," so to call them, worked and still work — when followed — infinitely better than the non-rules now in effect. Rules in general work. They create expectations, obligations, responsibilities and structures.

Let's talk about structures — a hard concept possibly to grasp in the age of shacking' up, not to mention gay-whatever-it-is. The marriage structure — one man, one woman, children of differing number — is a society all its own. It binds and in binding, liberates by enabling.

Hear me out, between gasps of derision. A man and woman who make a covenant of lifelong union — "in the sight of God, and in the face of this company," as the Book of Common Prayer would have it — have a structure within which to live, and I don't mean a house. I mean something bigger: an undertaking within which sorrow and joys are to be duly enacted and — the present point — children to be conceived and raised. The joy of children, every parent knows, is not uniformly joyous. It's rigorous,



WILLIAM MURCHISON

draining work. But the kids are yours. You'll love and care for them, normally speaking, because that's part of the undertaking.

Forgive me, or rather, don't forgive me — I'll say it anyway: Illegitimacy strips children of rights and dignity and exposes them to insecurities and anxieties (not least concerning who they really are) that they would less commonly encounter as members of the ordinary family tribe. A child who isn't your own, save in the biological sense — a child your society lets you reject or neglect just as you like — starts out far, far behind in the game of life.

Let's not make Alexander Hamilton the archetype of the illegitimate child. The social statistics say poor and ethnic minority partners account for most illegitimate births. The prosperous and college-educated form and maintain families, making sure their kids get what they need and deserve.

Do we ever think we're smart in the 21st century — so smart that we can let go of rules and institutions, doing just what we like and no more? Ultimately, because human needs and nature never really change, a lot of people are going to end up sorry their parents, maybe grandparents, adopted that banal line. In the meantime, here we'll be, stuck as usual, with the consequences of stupidity.

William Murchison, author and commentator, writes from Dallas.

Social issue focus may haunt GOP race in fall

CHARLES BABINGTON
Associated Press

MESA, Ariz. (AP) - The longer GOP presidential candidates compete for conservative activists' favor, the more they risk alienating centrist voters who might feel that arguments over birth control are crowding out talk about how to create jobs.

Wednesday's televised debate highlighted the dilemma. The four contenders engaged in long, sometimes dense discussions of Planned Parenthood, education policy and congressional earmarks. Talk of jobs and the economy seemed to consume less time and stir less passion.

That's partly because of the questions asked by CNN moderator John King. But in general, his topics closely tracked the news coming from the campaign trail, and the candidates rarely tried to change the subject.

Rick Santorum's recent rise in the polls has focused new attention on social issues, especially abortion and birth control. Those topics fire up the religiously conservative crowds he often draws, but they might turn off more moderate voters worried about finding or keeping jobs for themselves and their families.

Meanwhile, there are signs that President Barack Obama may be benefiting from the increased GOP focus on social issues, at least a bit. A new Associated Press-GfK Poll found Obama with an 8-point lead over Mitt Romney, 9 points over Santorum and 10 points over Newt Gingrich and Ron Paul. The survey showed the president dominating among independents, a group central to his 2008 victory. Their support for Obama had faltered in recent months.

Obama is far from safe, of course, and any number of problems — starting with a possible economic dip — could undo him before November. But his supporters had to be happy with a two-hour Republican debate that often showed the candidates quarreling over congressional procedures, a distasteful topic to many Americans.

The debate, which came six days ahead of the Arizona and Michigan primaries, was especially difficult for Santorum. The former Pennsylvania senator got pinned down trying to explain his now-regretted vote for President George W. Bush's "No Child Left Behind" education program.

"I have to admit, I voted for that," Santorum said. "It was against the principles I believed in, but, you know, when you're part of the team, sometimes you take one for the team."

Santorum also got bogged down explaining how he voted for a massive spending bill with funding for Planned Parenthood — a group he strongly opposes — because it was the only legislative vehicle to fund vital programs elsewhere. "I think I was making it clear that, while I have a personal moral objection to it I do support it," Santorum said to scattered boos.

It was reminiscent of John Kerry's infamous 2004 remark, "I actually voted for the bill before I voted against it." Like Kerry, Santorum was trying to explain parliamentary realities that leave many voters cold.

The debate went much better for Romney, the former Massachusetts governor and the Republican establishment's preferred candidate. But Romney also spent precious time trying to explain why he supported bailouts for banks but not the auto industry, and why he attacks Santorum's congressional earmarks even though Romney successfully sought earmarks for the 2002 Winter Olympics.

Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich chided Romney on that point. "I just think it's kind of silly for you to then turn around and run an ad attacking somebody else for getting what you got," Gingrich said.

Gingrich, who chose "cheerful" as the best word to describe himself, did not show his traditional bombast, and it's unclear whether he did anything to start gaining ground on Santorum and Romney. Paul, the Texas congress-

man, also did little to change his place in the field, sticking to his familiar libertarian themes.

Santorum's surge has forced all the candidates to talk more about social issues, with varying degrees of comfort. King asked Santorum to explain why he has talked in the past of the "dangers of contraception."

Santorum began discussing the decline of the American family and "the increasing number of children being born out of wedlock in America, teens who are sexually active."

It seemed an argument that might justify the use of birth control, but no one challenged Santorum on that point. Paul, who delivered many babies as a doctor, said birth control pills "can't be blamed for the immorality of our society."

For some GOP activists, the whole conversation was on the wrong track. Republican adviser and hostess Juleanna Glover said on her Facebook page that women will think all Republicans oppose birth control "and none but the 1 percent of Catholic women who never used birth control will vote for (the) GOP nominee."

Republican consultant Matt Mackowiak said it was the first debate "in which Santorum took the most attacks, and they did some real damage. Santorum was forced to explain his 'mistaken' vote in favor of No Child Left Behind, defend earmarks and explain his 2004 endorsement of liberal Republican Arlen Specter," a GOP senator from Pennsylvania who became a Democrat before losing his seat.

Even with 10 states voting in the March 6 "Super Tuesday" primary, the Republican contest shows no sign of wrapping up soon. The longer the candidates talk about birth control, No Child Left Behind and the wisdom of backing Arlen Specter, the longer Obama — who goes to Florida on Thursday to talk about energy and economic issues — will breathe a little easier.

We welcome your letters

To ensure publication, please adhere to the following guidelines:

- Letters should be brief and to the point. All correspondence will be edited for length and clarity.
- All letters must be signed. Submit your name, address and telephone number with the letter for verification. Only your name and city will be published.
- Defamatory comments will not be published.
- E-mail submissions are welcome.
- The views and opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of *The Pampa News* or its staff.

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High season for tornadoes ahead

WASHINGTON (AP) — With the month of March looming, tornado chasers are already watching the Southeast as a nasty storm brews with the potential to spin off a batch of tornadoes.

But if funnel clouds develop Thursday or Friday as some forecasters believe, they won't be the first. This tornado season got an early and deadly start in late January when two people were killed by separate twisters in Alabama. Preliminary reports showed 95 tornadoes struck last month, compared with 16 in January during a particularly stormy 2011.

The season usually starts in March and then ramps up for the next couple of months, but forecasting these storm seasons is even more imprecise than predicting hurricane seasons. Tornadoes are too small and too short-lived for scientists to make seasonal predictions. They don't develop like blizzards and hurricanes, which are easier to project.

They pop in and pop out. The storms that give them birth may last only a few hours. Hurricanes and blizzards are lumbering beasts that spend days moving across the satellite maps. When a hurricane approaches, coastlines get days warning to evacuate. With a tornado, if the weather service can let people know 20 minutes in advance, it's considered a victory.

"The Joplin (Mo.) tornado (that killed 158 people last May) wasn't violent until just about the time it got to the hospital," said Harold Brooks, a research scientist at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Severe Storms Laboratory, in Norman, Okla. "Even when you're in the field, there are still times when you're surprised by the intensity of the event and how quickly it started."

If a forecast for a hurricane or blizzard is off by a mile, it's still bad weather. But a mile difference means no damage in a tornado, Brooks said. "It's so much finer in time and space on the tornado, it does make it a harder problem."

It takes a piece of debris only a few seconds to fly around an entire tornado; it takes hours to circle a hurricane. But tornadoes, though smaller, can have stronger winds. Since 1950, there have been 58 tornadoes in the United States with winds exceeding 200 mph; six last year alone. Only three hurricanes have made U.S. landfall with winds more than 155 mph.

And forecasters are telling the Southeast and heartland to get ready again.

"It looks like this week we're moving into a slightly more active dynamic pattern," said warning meteorologist Greg Carbin at the National Weather Service's Storm Prediction Center, also in Norman, Okla.

The percolating Southeastern storm is proof of exactly how hard meteorologists have it. On Tuesday evening, Carbin said, "We're kind of expecting it to be a fairly significant event" and the storm center's website had a small red swath for potential severe storms with tornadoes.

By Wednesday morning, the storm center's forecast was much less clear. While the storm looks bad with potential for tornadoes, one of the key ingredients —

unstable upper level air — is not quite behaving as predicted. So that means forecasters have less of an idea of when and where the bad weather and potential twisters will hit, said Corey Mead, a meteorologist at the center.

By Wednesday afternoon, the storm prediction center massively expanded its Thursday watch area to include Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, West Virginia and parts of Virginia, the Carolinas and most of Florida.

"A lot of things have to come together at once to have a tornadic storm and the skill at forecasting all those things is near zero," said Howard Bluestein, a professor at the University of Oklahoma. "They are definitely more unpredictable."

All this comes on the heels of one of the worst tornado years in U.S. history. Tornadoes in 2011 started the earliest ever — New Year's Day — killing 550 people, injuring 5,400 and causing \$10 billion in damage over the year, the most in U.S. history. The 2011 season had the most tornadoes in a single day and a single month on record.

But if you ask tornado experts what that means for this year, they'll answer that they just don't know. Later this summer, meteorologists will meet in a special conference to try to figure out how to do that type of longer-term tornado prediction. And the National Weather Service is installing new radar for live forecasting, tracking and distinguishing of tornadoes. Those together mean that maybe in 2020 or so, meteorologists will be able to say watch out this season or relax a bit — but not just yet, Brooks said.

A new study by Columbia University professor Michael Tippet points out potential factors — vertical wind shear, updraft and a type of rainfall — that might help for long-range tornado forecasts.

Another factor is La Nina, the flip side of El Nino. It's a cooling of the central Pacific Ocean. Scientists have noticed a correlation between strong La Ninas and active tornado seasons — including last year. But it's not so simple or clear-cut, Tippet and others say. The current La Nina is weakening so much it shouldn't be a factor this year, several experts said.

The new radar, called dual polarization, allows meteorologists to see through rain and dark and be sure if high winds are a tornado. In the past, meteorologists had to wait for ground confirmation. This won't help with long-term forecasts but could save lives in real-time because forecasters can be more certain in their warnings, said National Weather Service meteorologist Paul Schlatter.

Assault

cont. from page 1

safety, or at least we don't think so. This looks like it's something completely different."

The police are currently accepting tips on Wednesday's incident. If you have any information, you may contact them at 806-669-5700.

Stopping annoying house sounds

Dear Pat: I have lived in a new house for about one year now. Whenever I use a lot of hot water or the furnace/air conditioner comes on, I hear squeaks and knocking sounds. What is it, and how can I stop it? — Gina P.

Dear Gina: Those sounds you described can be quite loud and a little scary for children. I can still recall spending the night with my grandparents when I was a child. Their plumbing and heating system made many strange, frightening noises, which kept me awake and anxious all night.

Most of the knocking sounds you are hearing are from the water pipes expanding and contracting as hot water runs through them. First they heat up and expand, and then they cool down again when you turn the hot water off. The sounds are usually louder when you turn the water on because they heat up much faster than they cool back down.

The copper supply pipes expand some, but not as much as the plastic (PVC) drain pipes. Plastic expands much more with temperature increases than does metal. Most new houses use PVC pipe today, so you can expect to always have a few sounds, but not at the annoying level.

For those of you who are planning to build a new house, consider installing cast iron drain pipes instead of plastic. It is more expensive, but it will virtually eliminate these sounds. Cast iron pipe also reduces the sound of the water running through them. This can be a great advantage, particularly for second-floor bathrooms.

Another source of the noise is caused by the pipes rubbing against floor and wall joists as they expand and contract. If the builder was not careful to support the plumbing properly or saw large enough clearance holes for it, you will hear a squeak or a ticking sound as the pipe rubs against the wood.

There really is no simple fix for this problem. The best you can do is try to locate the spots where the sound seems to be the loudest and most annoying. Remove a section of the drywall to gain access to the suspect pipe. Support it better so it does not touch the lumber framing.

HOME HOW-TO

Making the holes in the lumber a little large will provide more clearance around the pipe and may stop the rubbing. Be careful not to enlarge the clearance holes too much because it weakens the joist or stud. Check with your local building inspections department for the maximum allowable hole sizes.

The sound when the furnace starts is somewhat similar to the pipes. The ducts will grow and shrink as they warm up. Support them properly so they don't rest against the lumber. Also, secure all the duct joints, because this is a

location where one piece will slide against another — squeak!

A loud knock when the furnace starts and stops may be the sides of the large main ducts buckling in and out. This is sometimes called "oil canning." The increasing and decreasing air pressure inside the ducts causes this to happen, usually in the large flat ducts near the furnace.

Screw some long, heavier sheet metal supports along the duct faces that are oil canning. Sometimes, just putting small dimples in the face with a hammer will make it rigid enough to stop the noise.

Send your questions to *Here's How*, 6906 Royalgreen Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45244 or visit www.dulley.com.

HOME HOW-TO

Noisy Pipes

Noises from water pipes can be due to many different things, such as loose pipes, air in pipes or water hammer. It's important you locate and fix the problem before it results in leakage.

PIPE RATTLING

The rattling sound comes from the pressure of water running through a loosely attached pipe, causing it to vibrate. When a loose pipe passes through the floor system or framing, it may rub on the wood and rattle.

AIR IN THE PIPES

SYMPTOMS:
 ■ Noise unrelated to a valve opening or closing.
 ■ Vibrating or prolonged noises.

WATER HAMMER

SYMPTOMS:
 ■ Noise occurs when a valve closes.
 ■ If you hear quick repeated bumps or a loud thump followed by silence.



FIXING RATTLING
 Secure loose pipes to framing with straps or hangers so that pipe won't vibrate.

WATER HAMMER
 A Water hammer (or hydrostatic shock) is a noisy pipe problem that occurs when valves are shut off quickly. Water hammer arrestors can fix the problem.

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Sports

Pampans remember former sports broadcaster Hasse

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

On Sunday, the Pampa community lost a great friend.

Warren Hasse, 88, who announced for the Pampa Oilers in the 50s and broadcast the Pampa Harvesters' basketball state championships under Clifton McNeely, died Sunday and was laid to rest Wednesday. Later in the afternoon, several Pampans looked back and reminisced about their legendary announcer.

"He was a nice man," Dick Stowers, owner of Culbertson-Stowers, said.

Hasse, originally from Wisconsin, came to Pampa in 1948 when he became the sports editor for The Pampa News and started broadcasting in 1949 for KPND. Pampa resident and former Pampa Oiler Deck Woldt said Hasse made his broadcast realistic.

"I remember him telling me that he had recorded crowd noise from Oiler games that were live at Oiler Park," Woldt said. "He had something that he would make a sound of the ball hitting the bat. He would start his broadcast with 'Take Me Out to the Ball Game.'"

Stowers said Hasse was effective at giving information on both teams.

"When he did a game, he tried to get as much as he could on all the players before the game," Stowers said. "He said something about everyone during the game."

Stowers said he had a great relationship with the athletes.

"He would call them by name," Stowers said. "That helps when you are doing announcing."

During a reunion of the McNeely area, the players honored him during halftime of the Harvesters' game against Borger on Jan. 21, 2011. Hasse, who also broadcast for West Texas A&M athletics, was also inducted into the Panhandle Sports Hall of Fame in 1981.

Donny Hooper, director of public works and the current voice for the Harvesters, said he was influenced by Hasse's broadcasts.

"Everyone knew who Warren Hasse was," Hooper said. "Even though I'm

coming up on my 20th season here, it doesn't touch what he did or the legacy he had. He's talked about in circles everywhere you go."

Hasse was active in the community as he was a member of Kwanis and had perfect attendance for 41 years.

"He was president of the club," Stowers said. "He was also lieutenant governor of the club. He was a good man."

Hasse's friends remember he led a private life and didn't speak much about his accomplishments.

"He spent an hour a day at the cemetery after his wife Peg (Johnson) died," Stowers said. "He would just watch the birds and the squirrels play."

"I didn't know that he was an Air Force bomber on a B-24 and served 35 missions over Germany," Woldt said. "I didn't know that, and I was a close friend of his."

Raymond Laycock said he and Hasse would tease each other about their war experience.

"He was in the Army Air Corps in Europe," Laycock said, "and I was on the ground forces. We used to have arguments."

"I used to say (to him) how useless you were because there wasn't any fighting going on," Laycock joked.

Laycock said Hasse was entertaining and a good conversationalist.

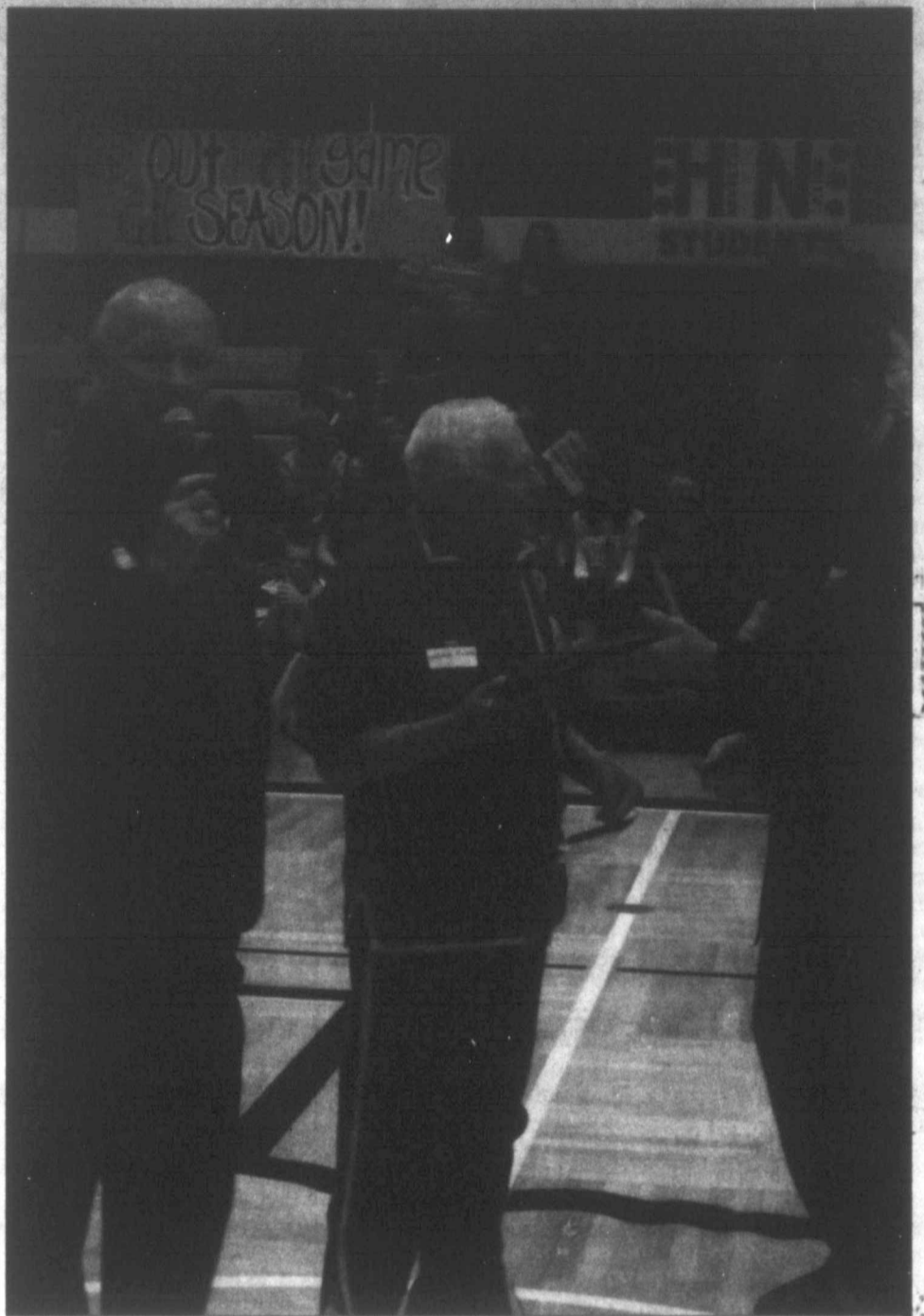
"He was well-rounded in most subjects we talked about," Laycock said. "He could stay with you no matter what it was."

Woldt said that Hasse's death was very sudden and that he'd talked with Hasse a day or two before.

"I was going to go by (on Sunday) and see if he wanted a take-out meal from the high school baseball benefit, and there were two cars there," Woldt said. "I found out from (his daughter) Mary (Schwab) that he was already having pains. ... I think they got an ambulance there but by that time he had already fallen and was unconscious."

Stowers said Hasse didn't want his death to be a big spectacle.

"He didn't want any praise or anything else," Stowers said. "He just wanted to pass."



Warren Hasse (center) is honored by E.J. McIlvin (left) and Gary Griffin for his years of service as the team's broadcaster and his induction into the Panhandle Sports Hall of Fame.

TEXAS RANGERS

Pitcher Darvish debuts with Rangers in spring training

SURPRISE, Ariz. (AP) — The Texas Rangers would love to hear Yu Darvish's best go at "y'all."

"Some Texas twang, any type of slang," said fellow starter Colby Lewis, who spent time pitching in Japan in the opposite division as Darvish. "He'll have fun. It's going to be good."

Give him a little time, gang. Darvish most certainly would prefer to show off his powerful arm and remarkable athletic abilities before he delves into learning the lingo of the Lone Star State or belting out "Deep in the Heart of Texas."

Darvish, with his shaggy, orange-tinted hair and a dark goatee, pulled a blue long-sleeved Rangers workout shirt over his head Thursday and chatted up teammate Justin Miller as nearly everybody in the clubhouse eagerly watched. At 6-foot-5, he's quite a presence even before considering that the Rangers spent more than \$107 million this winter to land him.

Texas will be dealing with some "Yusanity" this season.

"I guess this comes with success and all that," manager Ron Washington said Thursday, before taking the field to watch Darvish himself. "People are interested in the Texas Rangers so I guess we just have to deal with it."

The team's prize offseason pickup looked plenty comfortable in his new surroundings on the first day for pitchers and catchers at Surprise Stadium, where dozens of Japanese reporters arrived early to record the right-hander's every move.

There's no question his fame reaches

cult status.

Fans lined the area around the bullpen to catch a glimpse and autograph hounds were relentless in their efforts, swarming until a claustrophobic circle formed around the pitcher as he wrapped up his work day. Darvish received a police escort between practice fields.

"I directed traffic," joked pitching coach Mike Maddux. "It's a little post-season pandemonium here in spring training. A lot of guys are well known. Sometimes you run into somebody who's famous. That's what we're dealing with, someone who's famous."

Texas personnel provided a detailed schedule for the star Japanese pitcher's highly anticipated first day: from when and where he would stretch and warm up to his first fundamental drill and then his initial bullpen session.

Darvish threw for five minutes in the bullpen followed by five minutes on the mound against live hitters, throwing 19 pitches during that session against a pair of minor leaguers — tossing an array of fastballs to both sides of the plate, sliders, curveballs, changeups and even one split-finger.

Catcher Mike Napoli asked to catch Darvish on Day 1, when slugger Josh Hamilton also was out on the field and signing autographs.

"I'm just excited to get the chance to see him pitch for the first time aside from the footage on ESPN," new Rangers reliever Joe Nathan said. "His work ethic seems to be outstanding. We had a chance to

talk yesterday. He enjoys getting in the weight room as much as he enjoys pitching. That will help him pitch a long time and he should adjust a lot quicker."

Darvish's father, Farsad, is in the Arizona desert to help his son through that process. The baseball part of Darvish's life will take care of itself, his father said. "He seems to be doing OK," the elder Darvish said. "I don't really talk to him about his baseball career. That he gets adjusted and used to the culture is my concern. He's been in the big leagues in Japan and gets a lot of attention, so to him this is normal."

The two-time reigning AL champion Rangers don't envision communication problems with the 25-year-old Darvish, and Washington has no plans to learn Japanese — for one, he doesn't see it fitting it into his already hectic spring schedule.

"I don't want to trash the language," Washington quipped. "I'll use my universal baseball language. I trash the English language."

Washington won't say what day Darvish will first pitch in Cactus League action or guess how many wins he will earn as a rookie. There will be huge expectations given he signed a \$56 million, six-year contract and the Rangers paid his Japanese club \$51.7 million just to have the chance to acquire him.

"I think we're all excited about seeing him throw, watching him do his work," Rangers president and CEO Nolan Ryan said. "I think watching video on him I

have an expectation of what he's going to be like so I don't think it's going to be really much different from what I've seen in the videos of him. But you know just seeing his delivery, watching him from different angles and that kind of stuff. Obviously everybody that's been involved in this process is anxious to see that."

The brass lined up behind the fence to observe Darvish's initial session. He impressed all right — and he was only going at 80 percent according to Napoli and the pitching coaches. When he faced top prospect Jurickson Profar and Ryan Strausborger the protective L screen stood right in front of the mound as a precaution.

Napoli gave Darvish a high-five and a hug after they were done.

Seattle resident and Mariners fan David Duggan showed up Thursday with Darvish's World Baseball Classic jersey hoping to get it signed for his 20-month-old daughter, Hannah.

"When Ichiro came I didn't realize the magnitude of it," Duggan said. "This could be like Ichiro mania or Dice-K mania."

Darvish's routine has been carefully mapped out. He will throw every other day and pitch in an intrasquad game on Day 9.

"He handles himself well," Maddux said. "He was there and eager to go. He didn't want to wait to throw. That's refreshing."



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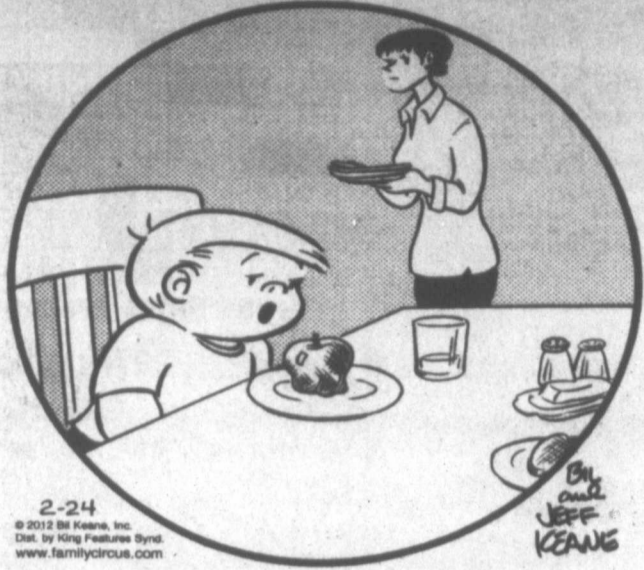
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Let your

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THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



2-24
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"Wait a minute. Doesn't fruit have to be in a pie to be dessert?"

Non Sequitur

BERT EASES HIS WAY INTO SOCIAL MEDIA



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Nest Heads



daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Saturday, Feb. 25, 2012:

New options appear all year long, if you are willing to see them. Your ability to express your authentic self changes situations substantially. People cannot help but respond. Acknowledge when someone attempts to pull you into control games. What might be best is not to become involved in them. If you are single, you will enjoy dating and could meet several potential suitors. If you are attached, security will build between you. You also will be able to flex better with each other. Your bond becomes stronger as a result. **ARIES** can be possessive.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Your instincts guide you with money. A lucky hunch could bring positive results. You have a manner that draws many people. Be aware of a self-indulgent streak. Share some good news with a friend and loved ones. Tonight: It is your call.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ You smile, and others respond. Getting together with friends makes you happy. You might opt to have a spontaneous celebration or party at your place. A new friendship or person on the scene could be quite interesting. Tonight: Vanish with a smile.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Zero in on what is important. Friends play a big role in your plans. You might meet a pal for a late lunch and a movie. Clearly, those around you have a self-indulgent streak. You relish the moment while watching. Let go a little. Tonight: Only where people are.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ A friend supports you in gaining more understanding. An authority figure has been difficult with his or her demands. Your friend sees right into this difficult person's soul. Listen to what he or she shares. Be gracious and understanding when you confront the issue or you will have to deal with a challenge. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ You could be surprised by how someone touts your skills. You probably did not know how much you were appreciated. Let your mind wander to great music, or

make a call to a distant friend. Isn't it time to plan a vacation? Tonight: Opt for new, whether it be a cuisine, activity or haunt.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ You might want to deal directly with a loved one or friend. Together, you might make plans to take off for yonder lands. A new option appears out of the blue, if you remain open. You are lucky today with another person's money. Buy a lottery ticket. Tonight: Togetherness is the theme.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Others are full of fun and ideas. Sort through suggestions or put several of them together. Someone you care about lets you know how mutual the feelings are. You'll find greater happiness working as a duo. Tonight: Say "yes" to an offer.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ An offer has unusual appeal. You have a lot of admirers, whether you are single or attached. Proceed with care. Make a gesture toward a roommate or family member. Whether you pitch in on one of this person's projects, or simply offer a back rub makes no difference. Tonight: Keep it easy.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ You might have difficulty finding someone with the same amount of energy as you. Schedule a physical activity somewhere in your day. Go to a flea market or art show — somewhere you can walk. No matter what your status is, romance flourishes. Tonight: Time for a romp.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Stay anchored in the present. You might seem to be distracted to a family member, loved one or friend. Stay close to home if you can. Invite others over. At the same time, let more caring into your day-to-day life. Tonight: Order in.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Reach out for someone at a distance. How you see a situation could change radically because of an open conversation. Add more luxury to your home, and add to the quality of your life. A call could be more important than you think. Tonight: Go to a neighborhood restaurant.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Before mending out the door, balance your checkbook and make sure everything is as it should be. Whether you intend to or not, you could end up spending more than you anticipated. A friend returns your call. Instead of chatting, get together. Tonight: Your treat.

Tundra



Shoe



Mother Goose and Grim



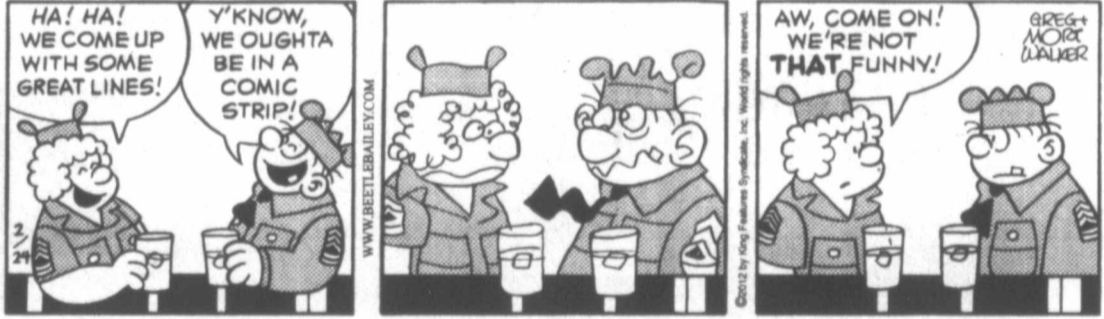
Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie





Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to "Roman" for 13 years. He has always been a man of few words who didn't initiate much on his own, so I stepped up to bat and did everything. I took over all aspects of our married life — from bill paying to home maintenance to romance. He would tell me how grateful he was to me for doing it.

His adult daughters from a previous marriage have always been cold to me, and I recently found out why. It turns out Roman made up horrible, untrue stories behind my back. He painted himself as the victim of abuse! His daughters staged an "intervention" to save their dad, and Roman went along with them. He cleared out our bank accounts, hid money and assets and filed for divorce. I was stunned.

Abby, he went along with the charade for a week — until his guilt got the better of him, and he admitted he had made it all up. He claims he doesn't want to divorce me after all. He said he made up the stories to get his daughters' attention.

Roman and I are now going through counseling, and I am assuming responsibility for my part in this mess. He harbors strong resentment toward me and resorted to passive-aggressive revenge. We're both doing our best to establish forthright, honest and open lines of communication.

The problem is his daughters still believe the

lies. They hate me and won't speak to their father unless he divorces me. I'm not sure what to do. Roman has lost his family and he may lose me, too. The damage is so widespread I don't know what can be regained. Have you any advice for me? — OLDER, WISER AND HEARTBROKEN

DEAR OLDER, WISER AND HEARTBROKEN: Your letter made me furious. It proves that with your husband no good deed goes unpunished. Had you not taken on the functions your husband avoided, your credit would be shot, your house would be a wreck and your sex life nonexistent. And for this your husband slandered you?

That he would lie to his daughters about you is disgusting. That he then made a money grab and hid assets is appalling. What have you to gain from continuing this marriage? If I were you, I'd contact a divorce lawyer AND a forensic accountant, divide the assets and let the daughters take care of their ingrate of a father.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I belong to a supper club comprised of four couples. We have enjoyed our monthly gatherings for years and have developed a strong bond with each couple. As a rule, each one takes turns hosting the event in their home. The recent behavior of one hostess has us baffled.

For starters, "Lynn"

sometimes seats herself and her husband at a separate table, even though there's room at the main table. She also involves herself with activities I consider rude — taking calls on her cell, perusing Facebook, doing paperwork. It's beginning to feel as though we are an obligation rather than wanted guests.

Members of our group have been hesitant to discuss this with her because we don't want to create tension in the group we have come to hold dear. Any suggestions? — GETTING SERVED A COLD DISH

DEAR GETTING SERVED: It appears there is already tension in the group you have come to hold dear. For a host to behave the way Lynn has is rude. Whoever in the group is closest to Lynn should have a chat with her about it — preferably face-to-face — and ask her to explain. It's possible that the responsibility of hosting has become too much for her.

...

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 40 Bloom in le jardin
 - 1 Crack up
 - 6 Change from a sawbuck
 - 11 Wipe clear
 - 12 Spiny plant
 - 13 Storage sites
 - 14 Taboo acts
 - 15 Biol. or geol.
 - 16 Famed raft
 - 18 The whole amount
 - 19 — Lanka
 - 20 Cariou of Broadway
 - 21 Eye drop
 - 23 Quasi-modo's concern
 - 25 Fragrant tree
 - 27 Neptune's realm
 - 28 Makes do
 - 30 Has debts
 - 33 Costa del —
 - 34 Empty talk
 - 36 Ensign's answer
 - 37 Sailor
 - 39 Swamp
- DOWN**
- 1 Alludes to
 - 2 Answer source
 - 3 Office holders
 - 4 Invite
 - 5 Office fixtures
 - 6 Rear ends
 - 7 "— You Babe"
 - 8 Sweet cookies
 - 9 Conjures up
 - 10 Amber source
 - 17 Sphere
 - 22 Tatter
 - 24 Summer sign
 - 26 Looks at
 - 28 Lassie, for one
 - 29 Mineo of movies
 - 31 Lace's place
 - 32 Detects
 - 33 Until now
 - 35 Thong
 - 38 Winter treat for birds
 - 42 Big head

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Yesterday's answer

- 8 Sweet cookies
- 9 Conjures up
- 10 Amber source
- 17 Sphere
- 22 Tatter
- 24 Summer sign
- 26 Looks at
- 28 Lassie, for one
- 29 Mineo of movies
- 31 Lace's place
- 32 Detects
- 33 Until now
- 35 Thong
- 38 Winter treat for birds
- 42 Big head

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

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BANANAGRAMS!

Use the 15 tiles in this bunch to create words that fit into the grids below. To get you started, a few tiles from the bunch have been placed, and the BANANA BITES provide hints. Reuse the 15 tiles in the bunch for each grid.

LEVEL

Y N E I O S N V
J R N U C X C

BANANA BITE: One word means "curved outward"

BANANA BITE: One word is a type of symbol

Yesterday's Answer: WARHEAD, OFFBEAT

2-24

Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

8	2	6	7	9	3	4	5	1
4	5	3	8	1	2	9	7	6
1	9	7	6	4	5	3	2	8
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Public Notice

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Aileen Rogers, Deceased, were issued on February 21, 2012, in Cause No. 9901, pending in the County Court of Gray County, Texas, to: Danny Wilmon.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: Vanessa G. Buzzard
Attorney at Law

Public Notice

208 N. Russell St.
Pampa, TX 79065
DATED the 21st day of February, 2012.

Vanessa G. Buzzard
Attorney for
Danny Wilmon
State Bar No.: 03547900
208 N. Russell St.
Pampa, TX 79065
Telephone: (806)665-7281
Facsimile: (806)669-0972

B-09 Feb. 24, 2012

2 Happy Ads

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3 Personal

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21 Help Wanted

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Readers are urged to fully investigate advertisements which require payment in advance for information, services or goods.

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San Antonio man set to die next week granted reprieve

HOUSTON (AP) — An ex-con convicted of killing a San Antonio man and stealing his prized motorcycle won a stay of execution Thursday when a judge in Houston agreed to new forensic tests.

Anthony Bartee, 54, had been scheduled for lethal injection Tuesday evening in Huntsville.

Bartee's lawyers argued in appeals that more DNA testing should be conducted on two strands of hair found in victim David Cook's hands. A third strand of hair was tested earlier and identified as belonging to the 37-year-old victim. Prosecutors argued the other two were scientifically insufficient for meaningful tests.

"What we're doing now is looking into which labs are

capable of doing the testing in the shortest amount of time," Rico Valdez, an assistant Bexar County district attorney who handles capital case appeals, said.

State District Judge Mary Roman withdrew the execution warrant Thursday.

The night of August 16, 1996, a neighbor heard gunshots from Cook's home, then heard his motorcycle fire up. When Cook failed to show up for work, concerned relatives went to his house and found his body. He'd been stabbed in the back, his throat was cut and he had two gunshot wounds to the back of his head from what would be determined as his own 9 mm pistol. Both the gun and his cherry red Harley were missing.

Court records show inves-

tigators determined that the night before the shooting, Bartee — who was on parole after spending almost 12 years locked up for two rape convictions — tried to hire someone to kill a man he identified as David. The day after the killing, he was seen with the motorcycle and told people it was his.

When police questioned Bartee, he said he was unaware of Cook's death. But when police told him they knew he had the Harley, he said he had been working on it in Cook's garage and took off after hearing gunshots because he feared for his own safety. He wouldn't acknowledge participating in the murder but didn't deny being present at the scene, according to court documents.

At his trial, defense attorneys tried to pin the slaying on two gang members Bartee identified only as "Snake" and "Throw Down."

Prosecutors said his story was a fabrication.

George Rivas, 41, is scheduled for execution on Wednesday. Rivas was the leader of the notorious "Texas 7" gang that escaped from a South Texas prison in 2000 in the state's biggest prison break ever and then killed a suburban Dallas police officer during a Christmas Eve robbery of a sporting goods store.

Torture victim calls survival 'a miracle'

WEATHERFORD (AP) — After searching more than a week for a woman who seemingly vanished after her house burned down, authorities finally got a lead: Jeffrey Allan Maxwell.

He had just cashed a \$500 check from her, and his car matched the description of one seen driving down the rural road the day of the fire, but Maxwell hadn't lived in the area in years. On that Friday last March, Parker County Sheriff Larry Fowler could have waited until Monday to send his investigators some 100 miles away to Corsicana — after all, it was a gamble. But in his gut, Fowler knew they had to act fast.

When investigators knocked on Maxwell's door the next day, Lois Pearson was inside, praying. Since her abduction 12 days earlier, she had been chained to the bed every night. She had been whipped and sexually assaulted on a bar with hooks for skinning hogs and deer. When Maxwell left the house, he kept her shackled and gagged and once locked her in a wooden box. Maxwell had told her that she soon wouldn't believe in God anymore.

But Pearson wasn't restrained that day and ran outside a few minutes after Maxwell went on the porch to talk to authorities — who were stunned to see her. They had no idea she'd been kidnapped March 1; her house was torched March 3. It was the beginning of the end of her ordeal, which finally was over Wednesday when Maxwell was sentenced to life in prison.

"I want you to know there is a God, and he answered my prayers to spare my life," Pearson, 63, said in court Wednesday after the sentencing. As she read from a statement she prepared, several jurors wiped away tears. "It's a miracle that I am alive."

Maxwell, 59, will be eligible for parole after serving 60 years because the judge ordered him to serve two of his three life sentences consecutively. The same jury convicted Maxwell a day earlier of aggravated kidnapping and two counts of aggravated sexual assault. He faced a minimum sentence of probation since he had no previous felony convictions.

State District Judge Trey Loftin told Maxwell that he had preyed on the "least, lost, little and last" and called him a "nightmare."

Parker County prosecutor Jeff Swain said Maxwell has shown a pattern of acting on his sexual fantasies by abusing women — from stealing panties to torturing Pearson.

Authorities seized numerous items from Maxwell's house about 50 miles south of Dallas, including sex toys, an 8-foot-long whip, handcuffs, duct tape and DVDs with bondage and rape scenes.

In a recorded interview with authorities after his arrest, Maxwell told an investigator that he'd never done anything like that "to a complete stranger," later saying he had tried bondage with his second wife and even used a stun gun on her.

Maxwell tells an investigator he had sexual fantasies about bondage but never gives a reason for abducting and torturing Pearson. At one point he blames his "stupidity" and another time tells investigators he doesn't "know all the whys" when asked what could have led him — then the vice president of the Kiwanis Club in Corsicana — down this path.

When asked about the numerous pairs of panties found in his house, Maxwell initially says they were "souvenirs" from ex-girlfriends. But then he says he stole panties from the daughters of several girlfriends without their knowledge about 30 or 40 times, according to the recordings shown to jurors during the seven-day trial.

"That's what this defendant feeds off of. He takes the most intimate piece of apparel ... without consent," Parker County prosecutor Kathleen Catania told jurors Wednesday in seeking the maximum sentence. "This defendant is what gives people nightmares. ... He is pure and unadulterated evil as he sits there."

But defense attorney James Wilson said if jurors sentenced Maxwell to probation, he would be a registered sex offender and could be forced to wear an ankle monitor and undergo counseling.

"What he did to her was horrible at first and then it started tapering off. Why? I don't know," Wilson told jurors. "... Only y'all can figure out what's in his heart of hearts."

Defense attorneys called no witnesses during the trial. They declined to comment after the sentencing.

The Associated Press generally does not identify victims of sexual assault. But with the trial over, Pearson said she wanted her identity revealed to share her story of survival.

She told news reporters that she is trying to forgive Maxwell, although she believes he robbed her of a special place in heaven by taking her virginity. The deeply religious woman has never been married and said she had no sexual experiences before her abduction.

"My religious faith teaches (forgiveness), and I certainly don't want to go to hell over not forgiving that man," Pearson said.

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